GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5987
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002
STUDY ON GROUND WATER
BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of a recent study made by a Delhi University Team of research workers on an ICSSR-IDPAD Project for ground water availability in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have drawn up any comprehensive plan to meet the 1977 U.N. Declaration that all people have right to water in quantities and quality equal to their basic needs; and

(c) if so, the progress made from 1977 U.N. Declaration to 2002 Mexico (Monterry) Agenda on water availability ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) The Ministry of Water Resources is not aware of any study madeby a Delhi University Team of research workers on a ICSSR-IDPAD Project for ground water availability in the country.

(b) & (c) After 1977 UN Declaration in the World Water Conference heldat the Mar del Plata, Argentina, the Government of India launched in 1986 the National Drinking Water Mission (later re-named asRajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission) for supplementing the efforts of State Governments for rural water supply by providing Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. The objectives of the Mission are − To cover the residual Not Covered (NC), PartiallyCovered (PC) and quality affected rural habitations; Evolve appropriate technology mix; Improve performance and cost effectiveness of ongoing programmes; Create awareness on the use of safe drinking water and take conservation measures for sustained supply of drinking water.

The Government of India formulated and adopted its National Water Policyin 1987, which envisages that adequate drinking water facilities should be provided to the entire population both in urban and in rural areas. The Policy further provides that the drinking water needs of human beings and animals should be the first charge on any available water. The Policy provides first priority to drinking water in allocation of water for diverse uses.

Water supply in urban areas has been provided to 88% of the population. The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission has so far covered in rural areas 1237651 habitations fully and 165187 habitations partially out of a total of 1422664 habitations. Making available clean and safe drinking water and sanitation specially to un-served areas/population is of highest priority and the Government is committed to provide drinking water to entire rural population by 2004.